

In my paper “Czechoslovakia and the Nuremberg Trials (the Nuremberg Trials in the Czechoslovak press)” I deal with a formation of the “International Military Tribunal” which was to judge main war criminals who had unleashed the Second World War. It was necessary to inject a new type of criminal responsibility and appoint the criminals. Finally the court sat for the first time on 20th November 1945. Twenty two war criminals and seven German organizations were accused of four counts of an indictment – conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The huge asset for the Nuremberg Trials had the Czechoslovak delegacy too, because it shared in a formulation of the indictment. The Czechoslovak representatives put a lot of evidence, depositions and documents in the publication called “The German crimes against Czechoslovakia”.

The asset of the lawsuit for the world and Czechoslovakia consists in bringing a warning and edification for the future generations. Furthermore, it laid the principles of the new international legal order and made human life significant again. The trials had a special asset for Czechoslovakia as it confirmed the displacement of the German inhabitants from the Czechoslovak borderland.

The Nuremberg Trials was a big press event. The news of the local correspondents or the press agencies was used by three Czechoslovak daily papers “Rudé právo”, “Lidová demokracie” and “Svobodné slovo”, too. Each of them had their own writing and style. The articles of “Rudé právo” were very invective and they requested a harsh punishment for the war criminals. The main topic that turned up to be the most interesting for “Rudé právo” was all about of the Munich Conference. For its “Rudé právo” notes used many caricatures. “Lidová demokracie” did not use its own evaluation of the trial but the editors accentuated on the asset of the lawsuit, which was in their opinion the peace and safety.